

Iranian Foreign Minister), Mohsen Rezaee (former Chief Commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps), and Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (former President of Iran) were named as the Iranian suspects in the bombing;

Whereas Imad Fayeze Moughnieh (former head of Hezbollah's external security) was named as a suspect in the bombing;

Whereas, in November 2007, Interpol voted to put 5 Iranian and 1 Lebanese suspect in the 1994 AMIA attack on its most wanted list;

Whereas, in 2007, a Guyanese man, Abdul Kadir, plotted to blow up JFK airport in New York and was, according to Mr. Nisman, "the most important Iranian agent" in Guyana and influenced by Mohsen Rabbani;

Whereas there are countries in Latin America, especially the group known as the Bolivarian Alliance (ALBA), that actively cooperate with the Government of Iran and maintain special relations with the Islamic Republic at various levels;

Whereas Iranians and other citizens from the Middle East have received passports from Venezuela or purchased them in other countries of the region associated with ALBA countries;

Whereas the Government of Iran has allegedly purchased uranium from Venezuela and Bolivia;

Whereas Hezbollah, Iran's proxy, cooperates with drug cartels in Latin America;

Whereas, in January of 2013, the Argentinian agreement with Iran set up a "truth commission" to investigate who was "really" responsible for the bombing, despite the fact that Iran remains the main suspect in such attack;

Whereas Alberto Nisman was invited to testify before Congress in February 2013, but was prevented by the Government of Argentina, who denied him permission to travel to Washington, DC, to testify;

Whereas, in May 2013, Prosecutor Alberto Nisman published a 500-page indictment accusing Iran of establishing terrorist networks throughout Latin America, including in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname, dating back to the 1980s;

Whereas, on January 13, 2015, Alberto Nisman alleged in a complaint that Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and Minister of Foreign Relations Héctor Timerman conspired to cover up Iranian involvement in the 1994 terrorist bombing, and reportedly agreed to negotiate immunity for Iranian suspects and help get their names removed from the Interpol list;

Whereas Alberto Nisman alleged that Iranian oil was to flow to Argentina in exchange for Iran to purchase large quantities of Argentine grain and had evidence that reportedly included wire-taps of phone calls "between people close to Mrs. Kirchner" and a number of Iranians, including Mr. Rabbani, the Iranian diplomat;

Whereas Alberto Nisman was scheduled to present his new findings to the Argentinian Congress on January 19, 2015;

Whereas Alberto Nisman was found shot in the head in his apartment located in Buenos Aires on January 18, 2015;

Whereas, Diego Lagomarsino, the prosecutor's office employee who last saw Alberto Nisman alive and had provided Mr. Nisman with the revolver that was found at Mr. Nisman's residence, stated that Mr. Nisman had told him that "it [the revolver] was for security" and that the previous day Antonio Jaimie Stiusso (former head of Argentina's Intelligence service) had called, warning him to "take care of his [Nisman's] security detail and his daughters' safety";

Whereas officials of the Government of Argentina continue to discredit Mr. Nisman, attempting to ruin his reputation;

Whereas the President of Argentina continues to raise unfounded hypotheses with regard to Mr. Nisman's findings, including imaginary conspiracies she has suggested were orchestrated by United States hedge funds and other entities she considers "hostile" to the President of Argentina;

Whereas an Argentinean Federal court dismissed Nisman's findings against the president and other officials and later the accusations were dropped by Javier De Luca, another Federal prosecutor;

Whereas that move has raised questions in Argentina about the objectivity of Mr. De Luca, given his closeness to a group of Ms. Kirchner's supporters;

Whereas the ongoing official investigation into Alberto Nisman's death has yet to determine 2 months later whether his death is a suicide or a homicide;

Whereas an independent investigation launched by Alberto Nisman's family has released its own report by forensic experts and forensic pathologists showing that Mr. Nisman's death was not an accident or suicide, including claims that "the prosecutor had been shot in the back of the head", that "no gun powder residue was found on his hands", and that "Mr. Nisman's body had been moved to the bathroom once he was shot"; and

Whereas no one has been brought to justice for the death of Alberto Nisman, nor have any of the named Iranian suspects for the AMIA bombing: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) offers its sincerest condolences to the family of Argentinian prosecutor Alberto Nisman;

(2) recognizes Alberto Nisman's courageous work in dedicating his life to the investigation of the bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which killed 85 people and wounded more than 300;

(3) calls for a swift, transparent, and internationally backed investigation into Alberto Nisman's tragic death;

(4) encourages the public release of the results of the investigation, including the forensic and pathological reports by the government, which would show whether Alberto Nisman took his own life, or if his death is a homicide;

(5) urges the President to directly offer United States technical assistance to the Government of Argentina in solving the death of Alberto Nisman, as well as the ongoing investigation of the AMIA bombing;

(6) expresses serious concern about Iran's terrorist network in Argentina, the United States, and all of the Western Hemisphere, mindful of the findings of Mr. Nisman's investigation and reports on this matter, and encourages continued investigations of Iranian terrorist networks based on his work;

(7) urges an independent investigation into the findings of Mr. Nisman regarding the events that led to the memorandum signed between Argentina and Iran;

(8) likewise expresses serious concerns about attempts by President Cristina Kirchner and her government to discredit Mr. Nisman and raise unfounded hypotheses on Mr. Nisman's findings and death findings while the work of the courts on this matter still continues; and

(9) urges the President of the United States to continue to monitor Iran's activities in Latin America and the Caribbean as it is mandated by the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-220).

SENATE RESOLUTION 168—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AN AS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COHRAN, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 168

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 20 years ago—

(1) to bring foster care issues to the forefront of public consciousness;

(2) to highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) to recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas approximately 400,000 children are living in foster care;

Whereas nearly 255,000 youth entered the foster care system in 2013, while more than 101,000 youth were eligible for and awaiting adoption at the end of 2013;

Whereas children of minority races and ethnicities are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents—

(1) are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents;

(2) provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy to the children in their care; and

(3) are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children transitioning from foster care to adoption;

Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than foster caregivers;

Whereas children in foster care are 4 times more likely to receive psychotropic medications than children enrolled in Medicaid overall;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability, with 65 percent of former foster children experiencing at least 7 school changes while in foster care;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children who are forced to remain in the foster care system;

Whereas more than 23,000 youth "age out" of foster care annually without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas the number of youth who age out of foster care has increased during the past decade;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 2 years;

Whereas children in foster care experience an average of 3 different placements, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security and support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and postpermanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas Federal legislation during the past 3 decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2015 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Foster Care Month” to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child-welfare workforce, foster parents, the advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication, accomplishments, and positive impact on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2015 as “National Foster Care Month”;

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the special needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes youth in foster care throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system; and

(8) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed—

(A) to support vulnerable families;

(B) to invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) to promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) to adequately serve children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) to facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children who “age out” of the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 169—EX-PRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF DR. WARREN WEINSTEIN, AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. WARREN WEINSTEIN

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 169

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein was abducted in Lahore, Pakistan on August 13, 2011, and was held captive by al-Qaeda for nearly 4 years;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein is widely recognized as a scholar and humanitarian who devoted his life to improving the lives of men, women, and children around the world;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein selflessly suffered financial hardships and separation from his family, as many foreign service, military, development, and journalism personnel do, in order to serve the greater good and those in need;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein was a Fulbright scholar who earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in international law and economics from Columbia University;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein served as a tenured professor with the political science department at SUNY Oswego;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein served for 9 years at the Africa Bureau of the United States Agency for International Development and for 7 years at the International Finance Corporation, a division of the World Bank Group;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein served as a Peace Corps Director in Togo and Ivory Coast;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein served for 7 years as a development advisor in Pakistan for J.E. & Austin Associates, a contractor to the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein was proficient in at least 7 languages;

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein had a home in Rockville, Maryland, where he lived with his family; and

Whereas Dr. Warren Weinstein is survived by his wife, 2 daughters, a son-in-law, a granddaughter, and a grandson: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the death of Dr. Warren Weinstein and expresses condolences to his family;

(2) salutes Dr. Warren Weinstein for his lifelong commitment to humanitarian development work in challenging and dangerous circumstances;

(3) calls on the United States to make the return of all citizens of the United States held captive abroad, regardless of the different circumstances, a top priority and to provide a coordinated and consistent approach to supporting hostages and the families of the hostages; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Warren Weinstein.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1199. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 97, supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

SA 1200. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 97, supra.

SA 1201. Mr. CORKER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1200 proposed by Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) to the resolution S. Res. 97, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1199.** Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 97, supporting the goals of International Women's Day; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security;

(3) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women who are human rights defenders, who have worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(4) reaffirms the commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide, and to promoting meaningful and significant participation of women in all aspects of their societies and communities;

(5) supports efforts to establish a sustainable, measurable and global development framework that seeks to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

**SA 1200.** Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 97, supporting the goals of International Women's Day; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas there are more than 3,500,000,000 women in the world as of March 2015;

Whereas women around the world have fundamental rights, participate in the political, social, and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially to the growth of economies and the prevention of conflict, and, as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in advancing food security for their communities;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas on September 24, 2014, the President highlighted the United States' support for the advancement of women, noting: “Where women are full participants in a country's politics or economy, societies are more likely to succeed. And that's why we support the participation of women in parliaments and peace processes, schools, and the economy.”;

Whereas women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention and conflict resolution